

Application No. 09/550,103
Filed: April 14, 2000
Group Art Unit: 1647

B2 candidate process or agent is potentially therapeutically effective for treating schizophrenia or said related neuropsychiatric disorder.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested in light of the following remarks.

The disclosure has been objected to, the Examiner saying that Figure 1 is not properly identified with a sequence identifier. With respect, the Applicant refers the Examiner to Paper No. 3, Applicant's Amendment and Submission of a Sequence Listing mailed August 22, 2001. In that Amendment, the Applicant modified the figure description of Fig. 1, as the Examiner is now requesting, to insert a sequence identifier.

The Examiner has requested an updating amendment to the filing history in the first paragraph of the specification to add the patent number of the priority application. This amendment is made above.

Claims 5-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Deth et al. (April 1, 1996, Biol. Psychiatry, 39:504). Attached please find a letter from the publisher of the cited reference, which states that the issue of this journal having the face date of April 1, 1996 was not mailed until April

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9, 1996. Therefore, the instant application was filed within one year of the date on which the indicated article was made available to the public and the rejection is overcome.

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness in reciting a "related neuropsychiatric disorder." Claim 5 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, the Applicant submits that the rejection has been overcome.

The Applicant submits that all claims in the application are in condition for allowance and such action is requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

Page 1, first paragraph, should read:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 08/833,703 filed April 8, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,080,549, entitled METHODS AND MATERIALS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF SCHIZOPHRENIA AND RELATED DISORDERS; the whole of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

Amend claim 5 as follows:

5. A method of identifying a therapeutic process or agent for treating schizophrenia or a related neuropsychiatric disorder involving a dopamine D₄ receptor, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) establishing an assay system comprising a cultured cell line, said cultured cell line either naturally expressing D₄ receptors or transfected with the D₄ receptor gene;

(b) making an initial determination of the level of phospholipid methylation in cells of said cell line;

(c) administering to cells of said cell line the candidate therapeutic process or agent to be assessed;

(d) making a subsequent determination of the level of phospholipid methylation in cells of said cell line; and

(e) comparing the corresponding levels of phospholipid methylation from steps (b) and (d), wherein an increase in the level of phospholipid methylation subsequent to administration of the candidate therapeutic process or agent indicates that the candidate process or agent is potentially therapeutically

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effective for treating schizophrenia or a said related
neuropsychiatric disorder.

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WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,
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July 3, 1997

Holliday C. Heine, Esq.
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Dear Ms. Heine:

Elsevier Science is the company that publishes the journal Biological Psychiatry. You have asked me when the issue of this journal having the face date of April 1, 1996, was first made available to the public. I have determined from the records of this office that the April 1, 1996, issue of Biological Psychiatry was not mailed until April 9, 1996.

Very truly yours,

Judith Simons

Judith Simons

Production Editor

Attachment to Amendment
Appl No. 09/550,103
Filed: April 14, 2000
Inventor: Richard C. Deth